

hereby give notice of my intention to offer a resolution which raises a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. —

Whereas virtually every nation in the world has adhered to a moratorium on nuclear tests since September 1992;

Whereas, on June 13, 1995, President Jacques Chirac of France ended his nation's adherence to the moratorium by ordering a series of nuclear tests in the South Pacific;

Whereas France has acted conducted six nuclear tests on the Pacific atolls of Moruroa and Fangataufa in French Polynesia;

Whereas France has acknowledged that radioactive materials from some of the tests have leaked into the ocean;

Whereas, as a result of the tests, the people of the Pacific are extremely concerned about the health and safety of those who live near the test sites, as well as the adverse environmental effects of the tests on the region;

Whereas, in conducting the tests, France has callously ignored world-wide protests and global concern;

Whereas the United States is one of 167 nations that have objected to the tests;

Whereas the tests are inconsistent with the "Principles and Objectives for Disarmament", as adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;

Whereas, in proceeding with the tests, France has acted contrary to the commitment of the international community to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and the moratorium on nuclear testing;

Whereas the President of France, Jacques Chirac, is scheduled to appear before a joint meeting of the Congress on February 1, 1996; and

Whereas, in light of the tests, the appearance of the President of France before the Congress violates the dignity and integrity of the proceedings of the House: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That, by reason of the recent nuclear tests conducted by France in the South Pacific, the Speaker of the House shall take such action as may be necessary to withdraw the invitation to the President of France, Jacques Chirac, to address a joint meeting of the Congress, as scheduled to occur on February 1, 1996.

SEC. 2. On and after the date on which this resolution is agreed to, the Speaker of the House may not agree to the appearance before a joint meeting of the Congress by any head of state or head of government whose nation conducts nuclear tests.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time or place designated by the Speaker in the legislative schedule within 2 legislative days of its being properly noticed. The Chair will announce the Chair's designation at a later time. The Chair's determination as to whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege will be made at the time designated by the Chair for consideration of the resolution.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will now entertain 1-minute.

THE DEBT CEILING INCREASE

(Mr. JONES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I have listened with amazement as the President calls upon Republicans to pass a clean increase in the debt ceiling. Well, let me just say right now, there is nothing clean about stealing another trillion dollars from our children.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans already passed a responsible increase in the debt limit. It was part of the Balanced Budget Act. The President choose to veto it. We put it very clearly to the President: We are not going to let our Nation default on its debt, but we will not give the President a blank check to spend more money.

That is exactly what the President is asking for: a blank check, so he can spend not our money, but our children's money.

Mr. Speaker, default is not an option and Republicans will not let the President's irresponsibility let that happen. We will give him the chance to sign yet another increase in the debt ceiling. But we won't do it without at least providing a downpayment on a balanced budget.

JOINT MEETING WITH PRESIDENT JACQUES CHIRAC

(Mrs. MINK of Hawaii asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I have filed a privileged resolution and hope that the leadership of this House will consider it before the resolution itself and its contents become moot.

The resolution asks the Speaker to disinvite the President of France to come to a joint session to address it on February 1. There is an awesome responsibility in nations that possess nuclear power. And in this time and age, certainly we are sophisticated enough and advanced enough to reject the possibility, even, of a nuclear war.

So for such a nuclear power to say that continued tests were necessary, even after their prior government in France had declared a moratorium, to me seems to be an insult not only to humanity but to future life on this planet. Therefore, I feel that the House, being host to such a person who has violated moral responsibilities of leadership, would be against the conscience and integrity of this House.

I ask Members not to attend such session.

SUPPORT IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Congress has a historic opportunity to create an immigration policy that serves America's national interests—not the whims of special interests.

The Immigration in the National Interest Act, H.R. 2202, is a bipartisan effort. It has 120 cosponsors and passed the Judiciary Committee by a vote of 23 to 10.

H.R. 2202 has been endorsed by the Hispanic Business Roundtable, United We Stand, and Veterans of Foreign Wars. The National Association of Manufacturers, Information Technology Association of America, and American Council on International Personnel have endorsed the business-related immigration reforms in the bill.

This bill will secure our borders, protect American lives, make America more competitive in the global marketplace, give spouses and minor children high priority in the immigration system, and encourage immigrants to be self-reliant.

Support immigration reform in the national interest. Cosponsor H.R. 2202 today.

IN SUPPORT OF PRIVILEGED RESOLUTION

(Mrs. SCHROEDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I proudly stand with the gentlewoman from Hawaii in her privileged resolution, asking that this body take up and debate whether or not the President of France should have the very special privilege that so few heads of state ever have, and that is to address this Chamber.

I think it will be very ironic if we are allowing a French President, who has nuclear weapons and who has allowed them to be tested at the horror of all the rest of the world standing by and watching it, if we allow that French President to come here and address this body but we do not allow a resolution of a Member of Congress with many Members joining with her to come up to debate it first. I must say, if that happens, what has happened to our democracy?

But, Mr. Speaker, furthermore, we all know that nuclear weapons are very, very dangerous and with the cold-war meltdown, there is no reason to go throwing them around in the environment, harming people just because you can. That is wrong, and the French President should not be here.

A LETTER TO FRENCH PRESIDENT JACQUES CHIRAC

(Mr. MARKEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, after exploding six nuclear weapons tests, the